

*CICONES UNDATA* GUÉR (COLEOPTERA:  
COLYDIIDAE) NEW TO BRITAIN

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On 19th. February 1984 two specimens of *Cicones* were collected from beneath a loose flake of bark on the trunk of a moribund sycamore, *Acer pseudoplatanus* L. in Windsor Great Park, Berks. In the field, the two specimens were provisionally identified as *C. variegata* (Hellwig) but direct comparison later showed that they were not this species. Reference to Vogt (1967) suggested that they were *C. undata*, a species which had not previously been recorded in Britain, and this was subsequently confirmed by comparison with specimens of *undata* at the British Museum (Natural History).

Using Joy (1932), *C. undata* keys out easily to the correct genus by the circular club of the antennae and the irregular depressions of the pronotum and the two species may be separated as follows:—

- Proportionally broader and less elongate (Fig. 1a); obviously more convex and with alternate interstices of the elytra raised. Pitchy, near black, elytra variegated with small reddish marks with white scales, forming irregular transverse bands. . . . . *variegata*.
- Proportionally narrower and more elongate (Fig. 1b); much less convex and with interstices of elytra flat. Reddish marks and white scaling on elytra more extensive to the extent that in many specimens the impression is of pale elytra with dark marks, rather than vice versa. . . . *undata*.

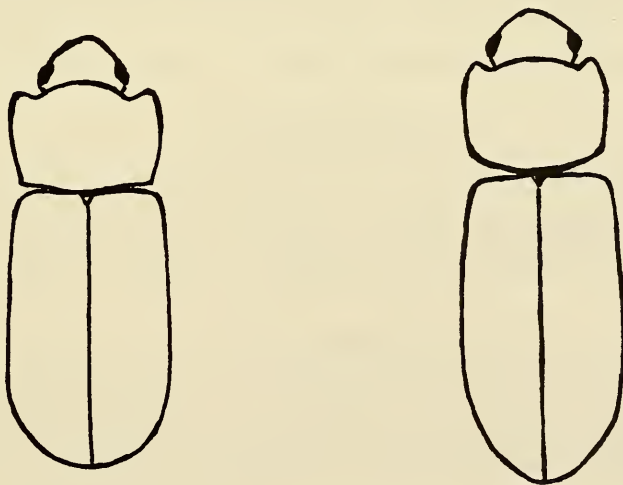


Figure 1 (a) *Cicones variegata*

(b) *Cicones undata*.

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Although these differences are largely comparative it is easy, in practice, to separate the two species, even with the naked eye. Both *C. undata* and *variegata* are of the same general size but the former is more variable in this respect ranging from 2.2-3.5 mm in the series of 23 specimens examined. Since the provisional notice of the original discovery (Mendel & Owen, 1984) *C. undata* has been found on many occasions at the original site, by the authors and other coleopterists and, on 16th August 1986, was still quite plentiful there under flakes of bark on dead and dying sycamores. It has, to date, been recorded in the months of February, April, May, July, August, November and December. Large numbers were found on 30th August 1984, including teneral specimens, and it seems likely that adults are long-lived and survive the winter. They will probably, eventually, be found in every month of the year.

*C. undata* is not only associated with standing timber. The only examples found away from the original area were taken by one of us, in company with *Synchita separanda* (Reitter), under the bark of a sycamore log at the southern end of Queen Anne's Ride about 2km. from the original site.

*C. variegata* is normally associated with encrustations of the fungus *Ustulina deusta* (Fr.) Petrak on dead beech, *Fagus sylvatica* L. and is well known, though rare, at Windsor. If *C. undata* is confined to sycamore, a species thought to have been introduced by the Romans (Mitchell, 1974), it can hardly be an ancient forest relict in Britain. It would seem, however, to be an unlikely introduction. It may turn out to be associated with field maple, *Acer campestre* L., which has a very similar bark structure. There are a number of old field maple trees in Windsor Great Park. On the Continent *C. undata* is a rarity and has been found in France, Upper Silesia and Czechoslovakia (Vogt, 1967).

### Acknowledgements

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### References

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NOTABLE COLEOPTERA AT PASHFORD POORS FEN, SUFFOLK. – Pashford Poors Fen, near Lakenheath, is one of those interesting pockets of wetland on the edge of the Breckland in north-west Suffolk. Even though spring fed it is drying out as a result of the drainage of adjacent arable land, and suffering from scrub encroachment. The area is a nature reserve (Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation) and has been scheduled a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The list of Coleoptera recorded from the fen grows steadily with each visit, and one small area of damp hollows, which is perhaps better described as grazing meadow than fen, is particularly rich. The following species which have been swept in that area are of special note.

*Agapanthia villosoviridescens* (Degeer) – 15.vi.1980 & 6.vii.1980. Single examples, often in flight, are found regularly in Breckland and there is little doubt that this species has become more common since it was first discovered in Suffolk, at Mildenhall, in 1946 by G. Burton (*Trans. Suffolk Nat. Soc.*, 6: 52-53). Large numbers, as were found at Pashford in 1980, are thought to result from local breeding and have only been recorded in recent years. Mr. J. W. Digby found the species in great numbers at Thelnetham Fen, on 17th. June 1978, and Mr. D. R. Nash found 'about a score' with little effort, on 25th. June 1983, at Barton Mills again in north-west Suffolk.

*Cryptocephalus exiguus* Schneider – 15.vi.1980. Now regarded as a great rarity and only previously taken in Suffolk at Oulton Broad, by E. C. Bedwell in 1898 (Morley, C., 1899, *Coleoptera of Suffolk*. Keys, Plymouth), and at Mildenhall by Morley in 1899. Both these records refer to pairs of specimens taken *in cop.* and the Mildenhall specimens survive, in the Morley Collection, at Ipswich Museum. Only a single example was found at Pashford.

*Chrysolina fastuosa* (Scopoli) – 15.vi.1980, 6.vii.1980, 10.viii.1980 etc. An uncommon beetle in Suffolk found sparingly at Pashford on Common Hemp-nettle, *Galeopsis tetrahit* L. It is interesting that Mr. E. Milne-Redhead also found the species in Suffolk in 1980, again on *G. tetrahit*, at Sprat's Water Nature Reserve (S.T.N.C.), near Lowestoft, on 6th. July.

*Longitarsus brunneus* Duftschmid – 22.v.1981 (det. M. L. Cox) Early Suffolk records for this scarce fenland species are confused with those for *L. luridus* (Scopoli), so it is worth noting its presence at Pashford.